

Exhibit A**Rocky Tsao**

From: Rocky Tsao
Sent: Wednesday, September 01, 2004 6:56 PM
To: 'camie.thompson@uspto.gov'
Subject: Outline for Telephone Interview (U.S. Application No.: 09/996,202; Our Ref.: 08919-053001)

Dear Examiner Thompson,

Thank you for granting a telephone interview for 3 pm tomorrow. Below are the two issues we would like to discuss with you during the telephone interview:

1. Indeed, the proposed amendment of claims 1, 4, 5 and 11 narrows the scope of these claims. However, these amended, narrower claims would not necessitate additional search. The compounds covered by these narrow claims are a subset of the compounds covered by the original broader version of these claims. As a matter of fact, the earlier search was already aimed at the compounds covered by these narrow claims.
2. WO 00/03565 discloses a compound in which D is nitrogen, B is carbon, A is oxygen, and R5 is a t-butylphenyl group. In the closest compounds covered by the pending claims, D is nitrogen, B is carbon, A is oxygen and R5 is alkylaryl in which the aryl moiety is substituted with one or more C₁₋₆ alkyl groups further substituted with hydroxyl, protected hydroxyl, amino, protected amino, carboxy, protected carboxy, alkoxy, halo, CN, or NO₂. Note that R5 is a substituted alkylaryl with the substituents clearly defined to not include the t-butylphenyl group. Thus, contrary to your belief, these compounds are not anticipated by WO00/03565.

I look forward to our discussion tomorrow.

Regards,

Rocky Tsao
Registration No. 34,053

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